

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 12-14 and 19-21 are pending, claims 12-14 and 19-21 are allowed, claim 3 is rejected.

II. Rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In paragraph 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being anticipated by Flanagan (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0014150A1), hereinafter Flanagan, in view of Kou (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0030429A1), hereinafter Kou, in view of Ramamurthi (U.S. Pat. No. 5251144), in view of Stals et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5646540). The Applicant thanks the Examiner for her courtesy in discussing the merits of Stals in a telephone interview on March 4, 2004.

In response, Applicant cancels claim 3.

III. Allowable Subject Matter claims 12-14 and 19-21

Applicant thanks the Examiner for stating that claims 12-14 and 19-21 are allowed.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the application, with allowed claims 12-14, and 19-21, be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Robert R. Williams

Robert R. Williams, Patent Agent
Registration No.: 48,395
IBM Corporation - Department 917
3605 Highway 52 North
Rochester, Minnesota 55901-7829

Telephone: (507) 253-2761
Fax No.: (507) 253-2382